

University of Groningen

## The Rise of Civil Society in Governing Flood Resilience

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## Propositions

1. Civil society can make place-specific contributions to flood risk management through physical actions and resources, knowledge, and advocacy activities (This Thesis)
2. Civil society is playing a role in governing flood resilience, but there needs to be critical reflection on the extent to which they are representing and putting forward the views of local citizens or those of a self-selected group (This Thesis)
3. "Floods are 'acts of God,' but flood losses are largely acts of man" (Gilbert F. White, 1945) - flood disasters are not only 'natural'. They are socially constructed and exacerbated by planning choices and underlying vulnerabilities in social systems (This Thesis)
4. Past-oriented, bounce back interpretations of resilience will only reproduce the same weakness and vulnerabilities that existed before the flood. Interpretations have to focus on challenging the status quo, becoming adaptable (as opposed to 'adapted'), and transforming places (This Thesis)
5. When planning for flood resilience, it is crucial to consider vulnerabilities and capacities on a neighbourhood basis (This Thesis)
6. 'Surviving and thriving' is emphasised in flood resilience and in 'living with floods', but not all citizens can 'survive and thrive' in the same way and this may exacerbate existing inequalities or create new ones (This Thesis)
7. In order to plan for flood resilience and support the emerging role of civil society, there needs to be a dialogue and agreement between authorities and civil society over 'shared responsibilities' and flood resilience interpretations (This Thesis)
8. There is growing evidence and concern surrounding mental health issues affecting PhD researchers (Nature Editorial, November 2019). Universities urgently need to better engage with the structural and cultural issues that can lead to burn outs, anxiety and depression (as well as other mental health issues) amongst PhD researchers.
9. Han shot first.
10. A PhD thesis can be either perfect or finished, but cannot be both